

# CONSERVATION CROSSFEED

Notes from AFCEE/ECC  
May 2001

## 2001 Pulling Together Initiative Request for Proposals

Through this program, installations are eligible to receive funds for invasive species efforts. Restrictions are that they must work across boundaries with non-federal partners, and raise a challenge match (usually in-kind or contributed goods/services). Funds can be used for prevention/control/eradication of invasives, establishing partnership networks, education and awareness, and more.

Specifically, "PTI provides support on a competitive basis for the formation of local weed management area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships will be financed by funds from federal agencies together with matching funds from state, local, and private partners. Proposal submission is invited and encouraged nationwide. The successful projects will serve to engender public awareness and increase interest in further partnership projects. Rather than a source of permanent funding for invasive and noxious plant control within a local area, PTI should be considered an opportunity to initiate working partnerships, demonstrate successful collaborative efforts, and develop permanent funding sources for the maintenance of WMAs from the involved parties. A project may be funded for up to five years, although there is no guarantee of subsequent funding and an applicant must reapply each year and compete with all other proposals; annual review will be based on the proposal and the WMA partnership's success in meeting the initiative criteria and achieving the project's stated goals."

The deadline to receive proposals is **6 November 2001**. This is a firm deadline, and late submittals will not be considered.

It will be posted on the FICMNEW website (), and it will also be available in the foundation's web site at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org).



## **2002 Unified Request for Proposals** **PROJECT PROPOSALS DUE: August 20, 2001**

We are pleased to report that due to the last seven years' successful partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), we expect to be able to fund additional plant conservation projects in 2002. Once again we will be emphasizing on-the-ground conservation projects which provide immediate results and benefits. These model projects illustrate the breadth and capabilities of our many plant conservation partnerships and provide additional momentum to build both internal and external support. Building on three years of success, the Native Plant Conservation Initiative is an ongoing and highly visible flagship program of the NFWF.

Using feedback from past grantees, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has changed some of the grant guidelines & timelines. Some of the changes include:

- New timeline. The due date is August 20, 2001 for most programs and notification of selection December 20, 2001. General Conservation & Pulling Together have different timelines, please see "Partnership Programs" for more information. Please note that for most programs, this is a request for proposals for projects starting December 21, 2001 and ending 12 months from initiation, no later than 09/30/03 (Dates vary depending on funding program, see application for more information).
- New documentation of challenge funds. In the past, all cash Challenge Funds had to be sent directly to the Foundation. This is no longer necessary. Challenge Funds may now be documented by donor letters. Successful applicants will be advised how to document challenge funds without having to send funds directly to the Foundation.

To download a copy of the Unified Request for Proposals, go to <http://www.nps.gov/plants/nfwf/02rfp.htm>

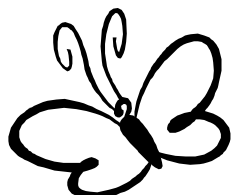
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## NEW!! Plant Diversity Website

The **Plant Conservation Unit** at the Smithsonian Institution is pleased to announce a new web site: "Centres of Plant Diversity: A Guide and Strategy for Their Conservation-Volume 3: The Americas." Published in 1997 by the World Wildlife Fund and The World Conservation Union (IUCN), the book has been recreated into a user-friendly website (<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/botany/projects/cpd/>). The book and website were prepared under the coordination of the Smithsonian Institution's Department of Systematic Biology - Botany. The website is part of a three-volume work that contains accounts of nearly 250 major sites for conservation of plant diversity worldwide. Volume 3 deals with the Americas, and contains six sites in North America, 20 in Middle America, 46 in South America, and three in the Caribbean. The web version of the printed volume contains all the same material, including tables, figures and additional pictures.

This work is essential reading for all those concerned with planning land use strategies for conservation and appropriate development. It is hoped that this global assessment will be followed by further assessments at the local level, so that the vital tasks of conservation of plant diversity can be well-integrated in detail into national and regional conservation and development strategies.



*Conservation Ecology* announces the publication of Volume 5, Issue 1. The issue contains a special feature on pollinator declines in North America as well as a number of other insightful articles. The full issue is available immediately at the main site for *Conservation Ecology* (<http://www.consecol.org/Journal/vol5/iss1/index.html>)



## Shrub Science Opportunity

The Shrub Sciences Laboratory and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry are pleased to announce the commencement of a national wildland shrubs handbook, *Wildland Shrubs of the United States and its Territories (GTR-IITF-WB-1)*, an internet publication, which may be viewed in its current extent at [www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/wildland\\_shrubs.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/global/iitf/wildland_shrubs.htm). A regular hard-copy compilation is planned as soon as enough descriptions have been written.

We solicit contributions from scientists and resource managers having interest or special familiarity with particular wildland shrub species. Authors desiring to participate should contact:

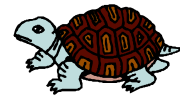
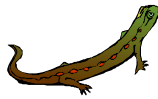
John K. Francis, IITF  
U.S. Forest Service  
735 North 500 E  
Provo, Utah 84606  
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## LEAVE THEM ALONE: WILDLIFE MAKES POOR PETS

Here are 10 good reasons why you must not bring home any living creature you find outdoors:

1. **You can hurt them.** Just handling them can hurt them. They don't react well to being picked up, and most animals become severely stressed which may lead to death in some cases. Most wild animals are injured in trying to escape. In some species, especially tadpoles, salamanders and most fish, the oil from your hands can kill them.
2. **It upsets the balance of things.** Over-harvesting of species is a major reason for the recent disappearance of many species. Not only does the one species disappear, but many other species whose life cycles relate to the first one also disappear.
3. **They don't belong to you.** All animals (fish, birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles) belong to the people of your state, and you are not entitled to remove, harm or even disturb them without permission.
4. **They can hurt you.** Most wildlife are raised to defend themselves from the start. Nature gave them a variety of claws, teeth, quills, barbs, stingers and fangs to inflict whatever degree of pain or injury necessary to escape or elude their captors or protect themselves and their young. You think you're going to love them - they think you're going to eat them.
5. **They die.** Wild animals do not adjust well to captivity. Most will outright die within hours or days of removal from their natural habitat. This is partly due to the stress of capture, but also from the captive habitat not meeting the survival needs for that species.
6. **They get sick.** All living things have finite needs and requirements for survival, which are found in their natural habitat -- food, water and cover. Temperature, humidity and light are also critical. Without these habitat components, the captive organism will mostly get sick and die.
7. **They can make you sick.** Most wildlife harbor or transmit natural diseases and parasites, which at times of stress or over-population, kick-in to reduce the population. These diseases are given unpleasant names by humans such as mange, salmonella, encephalitis, lyme disease, hantavirus, rabies, and plague. If left untreated, some diseases transmitted from wildlife to you may be lethal.
8. **They make you uncomfortable.** Wildlife in captivity, especially young, require a lot of attention. If the noise, the smell, and the frequent care and feeding doesn't bother you, then the fleas, ticks and other parasites that naturally occur and are transmitted by these species will eventually come to bother you too.
9. **You can get into a lot of trouble.** There are serious legal problems with capturing any wild creature. The most important is a little known law called The Lacey Act of 1900. It provides for fines, sentences and other punishment for injuring or even tampering with any form of wildlife. There are a host of other federal laws (Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammals Protection Act, the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, the Sikes Act, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act). Many state laws pick up after the federal laws are finished causing you even more trouble.
10. **It's not nice.** All living things, especially those in the wild, deserve to remain free. Wild creatures cannot comprehend captivity, much less being confined for your entertainment.

If you are returning a captive wild animal to the wild, it is best to contact a qualified wild animal shelter for their advice. Wild animal shelters are common in most areas. They are knowledgeable about them and equipped to heal abandoned or injured animals, feed and care for them and reintroduce them to the wild.

It is better to take only pictures to best appreciate the animals you find in the wild and Leave Them Alone.  
(Submitted by Will Summers/HQ AMC)

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## Lost and Found, Fort Sherman graveyard researched.

Gerald Johnson, Natural and Cultural Resources manager at Fairchild AFB, is responsible for maintenance of Ft Wright and has been working with the Fort Sherman Historical Society to research the transplanted remains from Ft Sherman, Idaho Territory. It is a poignant story, and a fascinating history lesson.

Fort Sherman was originally built as Fort Coeur d'Alene in 1878, not long after the Battle of Little Big Horn. It was conceived as a military outpost in case of further Indian uprisings in the area, even though there were no more battles after its construction. By 1898 the remaining soldiers from surrounding frontier forts were sent off to the Spanish-American War. The fort was not re-garrisoned; a skeleton crew was left to take care of the buildings and things."



On March 9, 1900, the fort was officially decommissioned and turned over as a grazing preserve to the Department of Interior. By 1905, all 1,000 acres of military property were divided into lots and auctioned off. The cemetery, which had been used exclusively for military burials, was now public property, meaning all government property--in this case, remains of soldiers--had to be moved.

They didn't have to be moved too far. By the time Ft. Sherman was closing down, Fort George Wright in Spokane was already built. Designed to consolidate the smaller frontier forts in the vicinity, Ft. Wright was a logical place to bury the soldiers and establish a national cemetery. The 39 soldiers and eight family members were among the first laid to rest in the new Ft. Wright cemetery, but there is very little record of that transfer. The actual number of persons who died at Ft. Sherman, therefore, isn't entirely clear.

Gerald Johnson, whose duty among others, is maintaining the Ft. Wright cemetery, which is now filled to capacity at 690 graves. Based on records he's seen from the late 1890's, Johnson can hazard a few guesses about the causes of death.

"A lot of them would fall off a wagon and get run over, or a horse would fall on them," Johnson said. "A lot of deaths came from disease and poor hygiene. We didn't have any kind of medicines then." Not a single death at Ft. Sherman was the result of injuries suffered in battle. All were accidents, disease, or suicide, Johnson said.

Today at the site of the original Ft. Sherman cemetery, there is no indication as to where these frontier veterans can be found. There is no special sign, no marker. There is not even special signage at the Ft. Wright Cemetery. But they are there. Straight, simple military headstones mark their final resting-places.

This year's **DoD Forestry Workshop** is being hosted by the Air Force at the Air Force Academy near Colorado Springs, Colorado. The dates for the conference are **10-13 September 2001**. The workshop will provide training in the application of forestry techniques. Topics to be covered include use of prescribed fire, forest management and the military mission, trees and bioremediation, forest restoration, wildfire history and historic regimes, role of spatial scale in modeling and mapping fire fuel, and endangered species habitat.

The Point of Contact for this workshop is:  
Julie Jeter, UNITEC, San Antonio  
(210) 531-0011, extension 253, [jjeter@unitec-tx.com](mailto:jjeter@unitec-tx.com)

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2001

Sept 5-6; WETLANDS & REMEDIATION CONFERENCE, Burlington, VT to register e-mail: [conferencegroup@compuserve.com](mailto:conferencegroup@compuserve.com)

Sept 10-14; NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONS AND CULTURES, Columbia SC, CECOS course offering. Contact Steve Covell (805/982-5078) or visit <http://www.cecocos.navy.mil>

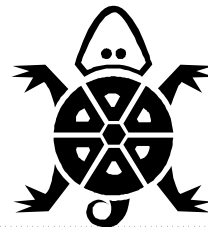
Sept 10-13; – DoD FORESTRY WORKSHOP, AF Academy CO. Contact for details; on-line registration [www.universetechnologies.com/forestry\\_conference/index.html](http://www.universetechnologies.com/forestry_conference/index.html)

Sept 13-17; ANNUAL MEETING, Society of American Foresters. Denver CO.

Oct 4-6; SER CONFERENCE; Society of Ecological Restoration, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada; go to [www.serontario.org](http://www.serontario.org)

### 2002

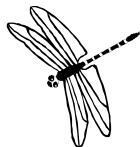
January 6-9; PHRAGMITES CONFERENCE, Cumberland County College, NJ; Contact Mike Weinstein ([mweinstein@njmsc.org](mailto:mweinstein@njmsc.org)) or visit [www.njmsc.org](http://www.njmsc.org)



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation are hosting a conference & workshop focusing on ephemeral wetlands and herpetofaunal conservation. The meeting will be held August 23-4 at the Chicago EPA headquarters.

The first day will be conference format open to everyone, with presentations focused on ephemeral wetlands and related herpetofaunal conservation issues. Activities on the second day will include, concurrently, a general meeting for PARC Midwest members to review where we have been and where we want to go, and small workshops to develop additional education materials to accompany the new Midwest Ephemeral Wetlands brochure. We are still working on some of the details of the meeting, but wanted to get the word out.

Further details about the meeting, or to see the brochure, please visit <http://herps.ipfw.edu/wetlands/ephemeral/>. The home page for PARC Midwest is located at: <http://herpcenter.ipfw.edu/parcmw.htm>.



### National Mitigation Banking

For more information on the 2002 conference -- and the proceedings from the 2001 conference -- visit <http://www.terrene.org> and click on *National Mitigation Banking Conferences*.

